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A PROPOSAL FOR A REGULAR AND USEFUL MILITIA.

K. Great Britain. — Militia.

O Viros [*Lacedemonios*] ſumma admiratione Laudandos! qui eam præcipue artem ediſcere voluerunt, ſine qua aliæ artes eſſe non poſſunt.

VEGETIUS.

EDINBURGH:
Printed by R. FLEMING, and Company,
M.DCC.XLV.

A

PROPOSAL

FOR

REGULATING

AND

MILITIA,

BRITISH MUSEUM

EDINBURGH:
Printed by R. Fleming, and Company.
MDCCXLI.

THE PUBLISHER TO THE READER.

THE following Propoſal appears to have been written before the Commencement of the preſent War, and to be the Thoughts of a Perſon apprehenſive of the Danger the Nation is expoſed to from Inſurrections and Invaſions, for want of a ſufficient Land-Force. The Method laid down for the Safety of the preſent Government, is a *Medium* betwixt a numerous Army kept in regular Pay, and a Force noways ſufficient for the Purpoſe. Any one may ſee, that ſuch a Scheme would have effectually prevented the preſent Troubles: And that it may not be loſt for future Occaſions, I have taken the Freedom to make it publick.

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THE following Proposal appears to have been written before the Commencement of the present War, and to be the Thoughts of a Person apprehensive of the Danger the Nation is exposed to from Insurrections and Invasions, for want of a sufficient Land-Force. The Method laid down for the Safety of the present Government, is a Militia: Service a numerous Army kept in regular Pay, and a Force nowise sufficient for the Purpose. Any one may see, that such a Scheme would have effectually prevented the present Trouble: And that it may not be loft for future Occasions, I have taken the Freedom to make it publick.

A PRO-

A PROPOSAL FOR A Regular and uſeful MILITIA.

A Standing Army in Time of Peace, is declared to be contrary to Law, it is conſidered by many as a needleſs Expence; the quartering the Troops is looked upon as an Oppreſſion of the Subject, and the greateſt Danger to which the Liberty of the Nation is expoſed. There are beſides ſome political Reaſons needleſs to be mentioned, which induce the Adminiſtration, to render regular Troops abſolutely neceſſary, and theſe very Reaſons make thoſe in the Oppoſition bear the greateſt Averſion to ſuch an Army.

But yet, without a greater Land-Force than what is uſually kept in Time of Peace, the Nation runs too great a Risk of being over-run by foreign Invaſions. Seventeen or Twenty thouſand Men diſperſed in Country Quarters, from *Lands-End* to *Glen-Elg* in the *Highlands* of *Scotland*, is in itſelf not ſo good a Strength, nor ſo ready as the ſix Northern Counties of *England*, or the South of *Scotland*,

land, could have furniſhed betwixt two and three hundred Years ago.

It is likeways to be conſidered, that *Great Britain* is an open Country, with only a few ſmall miſplaced Forts, and in ſuch ill Order, that they ſcarcely can be ſaid to be *hors d' inſulte*. The Defeat therefore of the whole or the greater Part of the regular Troops, would make an eaſy Way to the Conqueſt of the whole Nation.

And admitting our Fleets to be always ſuperior to thoſe of the Enemy, yet the Multitude of our defenceleſs Sea-Ports, Bays, and convenient Landings, the Shortneſs of Winter Days, the Hazineſs of the Weather, and the Winds unfavourable to us, while favourable to an Enemy, might furniſh him with an Opportunity of landing Troops, ſufficient at leaſt to ſpirit up our domeſtick Enemies, and to give the Government no ſmall Diſturbance.

And as ſuch an Enemy could loſe no more in the Attempt than the Troops he landed, or, if met with at Sea, the Men and Shipping, (a Loſs not to be put in the Balance with the Glory and Advantage of Succeſs,) it is an Inſtance of a favourable Divine Providence, that every bold and wiſe Enemy doth not undertake our total Ruin.

To provide for the Nation's Safety, either with a very ſmall, or without any ſtanding Army, many Propoſals have been offered, and ſome Attempts have in vain been made

to

to make the Militia effectual or more uſeful.—And all Endeavours for that Purpoſe muſt meet with the greateſt Oppoſition, as long as ſuch a Militia remains upon the ancient Footing.

For, upon Suppoſition, that all the able-bodied Men of the Kingdom were armed and diſciplined; in Time of Danger, of theſe might be found ſome Volunteers for the preſent happy Eſtabliſhment, and perhaps as many againſt it. Thoſe who live in eaſy Circumſtances, and fear no Loſs from a Revolution, would ſtand neuter, and the poor and laborious Part of the People might reaſonably expect Work and Wages from any Government, to whom therefore all Governments muſt be alike. While, on the other Hand, all thoſe that are in Trouble and Diſtreſs, thoſe that think themſelves neglected by the Adminiſtration, and too conſiderable a Number of *Jacobites*, rather wiſh a Change than the Continuance of the preſent Government.

I am ſenſible, it may be ſaid, that the Fear of Popery would unite Proteſtants in Defence of the preſent Eſtabliſhment, as it happily did at the Revolution. But it ought to be conſidered, that then Religion was profeſſed in earneſt, whereas now open *Atheiſm* and *Infidelity*, and a conſequent Inundation of Wickedneſs and Villany, have rendered it almoſt contemptible: At leaſt, to my Knowledge, *Chriſtianity* hath not one fourth Part

of

of the Influence upon the Minds and Morals of Men, that it had then.

Since then it would be needleſs, and might be dangerous to arm the whole Kingdom, of Courſe, if any Militia at all be employed for the Defence of the Nation, they muſt be diſtinguiſhed and ſelected from among the reſt of the People.

This ſelected Militia muſt therefore have three Qualifications; 1. They muſt be well affected to, or, at leaſt, noways ſuſpected by the Government. 2. They muſt come under an Obligation to Military Service, when commanded by his Majeſty: And, 3. They muſt have a ſuitable Encouragement or Reward.

Of ſuch a Militia for *Scotland* alone, the Place of his Majeſty's Dominions the Propoſer is beſt acquainted with, he can promiſe 20 Battalions of Foot, and 30 Squadrons of Horſe, tho' he is of Opinion, that Half that Number would be a ſufficient Proportion for that Part of *Great Britain*; and that upon the following Terms,

A Regi-

A Regiment of Horſe of nine Troops, at 45 Private Men per *Troop, making three Squadrons.*

	Men.	Money.
Private Men, at 5 *l. per* Man yearly, - -	405	*L.* 2205
Colonel - - -	1	45
Lieutenant Colonel -	1	40
Major - - -	1	35
Captains, at 30 *l.* each	6	180
Lieutenants, at 20 *l.* each	9	180
Cornets, at 18 *l.* -	9	162
Quarter-maſters, at 10 *l.* each - - -	9	90
Brigadiers, or Corporals, at 6 *l* each	18	108
Kettle-drum and Trumpets, at 8 *l.* each	9	72
Adjutant - -	1	20
	469	3137

A BATTALION, consisting of

	Men.	Money.
Private Men, at 2 *l. per* Man yearly	600	*L.* 1200
Colonel	1	40
Lieutenant Colonel	1	35
Major	1	30
Captains, at 20 *l.* each	7	140
Lieutenants, at 15 *l.* each	10	150
Enfigns, at 12 *l.* each	10	120
Sergeants, at 3 *l.* each	20	60
Corporals, at 2 *l.*	20	50
Drums, at 2 *l.*	20	50
Adjutant	1	15
	691	1890
Horfe Regiments 30, making Squadrons 90	14270	94110
Foot Regiments 60	41460	113400
Total	55730	207510

In *Scotland*, it is propoſed, that 10 Battalions, and five Regiments of Horſe, that is, 15 Squadrons, be levied, and five Times as many in *England*, and that every Shire or County throughout the whole Kingdom, have in it a Proportion of Horſe and Foot, ſuitable to its Extent and Number of the Inhabitants; that by ſuch a Diſtribution, there may every where be Some at Hand to oppoſe any Invaſion or Inſurrection. Or, of theſe Troops, *Midleſex*, taking in the Bounds of the Penny-Poſt, might have 20 Battalions and 30 Squadrons; becauſe as *Tiberius* ſaid, "*Caput rerum non eſt omittendum.*"

Both Foot and Horſe (Officers excepted) are to be for once armed and accoutered at an additional Expence, which Arms and Accouterments the Men ſhall be obliged to keep in good Order and Repair, at leaſt for as long a Time as they may be ſuppoſed to laſt when carefully kept. And the Trophies, ſuch as Standards, Colours, Trumpets and Drums, are to be kept by the Field Officers and Captains.

As an *Uniform* is very proper for Troops of all Sorts, his Majeſty, after the firſt Year of their Service, may at the national Charge furniſh the Foot with a Hat and a Frock of of blue Kerſey, and the Horſe with a Hat, Coat and Cloak, the Cloak of the ſame Colour, and the Coat of the ſame Cloth and Colour, to laſt four Years at leaſt, to be

wore always on Field Days, and on *Sundays* and Holydays if they pleaſe.

The Battalions and Squadrons I have not made ſo ſtrong as the regular Forces are in Time of War, which are liable to be detached or draughted at Pleaſure. Beſides, large Battalions and Squadrons in Day of Battle, are apter to fall into Diſorder, and are with more Difficulty rallied than ſmaller Corps, partly by Reaſon of their very Numbers, and partly for Want of a Proportion of Officers. It is a good Battalion that fights 550 private Men, and a good Squadron that fights 120 ſtrong. I have expreſly omitted Chaplain, Surgeon, and Regimental Quartermaſter; becauſe upon any Emergency, ſuch may eaſily be found. Nor have I mentioned any Officer above the Rank of a Colonel, becauſe his Majeſty hath Generals in great Abundance to be employed as Occaſion may require.

The Allowance made for the Foot is ſufficient for private Men, ſuppoſed to be Mechanicks, in Towns, and labouring Men in the Country. And, for the Officers, both of Foot and Horſe, it is little more than will purchaſe a Suit of Cloaths, and defray their Expenſes on Field-Days. And ſo ſmall a Matter can give no Umbrage to the reſt of the Nation, from which they would be diſtinguiſhed rather by the Honour than the Profit of the Employment*.

The

* Both Officers and Soldiers to be paid Half-yearly, *per* Advance.

The Horſemen muſt be ſuch as keep Horſes of their own, for labouring or other Purpoſes, which in moſt Counties of *England*, are generally good and of a Size fit for War. And tho' in *Scotland* they are commonly ſmaller, yet are they good punch Cattle, and as heavy and ſtrong as *Spaniſh* or moſt *German* Cavalry, and heavier and ſtronger than either *Hungarian* Horſe or *French* Dragoons. Beſides, the annual Allowance of 5 *l.* would excite Farmers to better the Breed †.

Theſe Troops might be diſciplined, by placing among them the ableſt of the *Chelſeamen*, as Sergeants and Corporals, and their Pay as ſuch added to their Out-Penſions, would make them live better than they can do at preſent. Or, fit Men from among the regular Troops, may be detached from their adjacent Quarters for that Purpoſe.-----If the Cavalry muſt be diſciplined by ſuch *Chelſeamen* as have ſerved in the Horſe or Dragoons, and who are not to be ſuppoſed to have Horſes of their own; they are to be furniſhed by the Officers of ſuch Militia-Regiments, for training and exerciſing the reſt. And in Time of actual Service, if capable of it, the King may provide them at the publick Charge.

Beſides the ſpare Hours which ſuch a Militia would voluntarily employ, to fit themſelves for military Service, they are to be obliged to attend ſix Field-Days in the Year, be-

† A Farm of 5 *l.* will maintain Man and Horſe that labour, any where in *Great Britain*.

twixt Seed-Time and Harveſt, and to march three Miles to the Place of Rendezvous. But for every Field-Day they ſhall be obliged to attend, above that Number, they are to be paid as if upon actual Service.-----But to encourage their Application, a *Premium* paid at once, or a yearly Addition to their Pay, might be beſtowed upon them, as ſoon as they had attained a tolerable Skill in military Exerciſe.

If any Man ſhall remove out of one Part of the Kingdom to another, at ſuch a Diſtance that he cannot attend his Troop, Company or Regiment, in which he was firſt enrolled, he ſhall leave his Cloaths, Arms and Accouterments, with the commanding Officer of ſuch Troop, Company or Regiment: And a Certificate, under the Hand of ſuch Officer, of his having done ſo, ſhall entitle him to Cloaths, Arms and Accouterments, and Pay upon the firſt Vacancy that ſhall happen in the Place of his next Reſidence, preferably to all others. And it is provided, that every Man ſhall be at Liberty, even immediately after receiving his half Year's Pay, to enliſt himſelf in the regular Troops, except when commanded upon actual Service.

To do the Officers the more Honour, and to give them the greater Authority, they are to have their Commiſſions immediately from his Majeſty, either *gratis*, or for ſmall Fees. And an Extract of ſuch Commiſſion, being firſt

first registrated in the War-Office, shall be as valid as the Original.

When the King shall think fit to command this Militia upon actual Service, either in whole or in Part; from the Day they leave their Dwellings, they are to be put into Pay: the Foot, at the same Allowance with his Majesty's marching Regiments, and the Horse at the same with his Dragoons, in a weekly Advance until their Return to their respective Habitations: But are not to be obliged to go out of the Kingdom of *Great Britain*, for any Cause, or upon any Account whatever.

There are several Articles of a general Expense that attend an Army, with which it is needless to incumber this Proposal: For upon Supposition that this Plan is good, all these Things may easily be provided for.

Such a Militia is always readier than new Levies, and as useful as such Levies can be for the first half Year. When such new levied Troops are disbanded, their good or bad Behaviour is forgotten; whereas in such a Militia it will be remembered, and procure to the Brave, Respect, and to the Base, Contempt among their Acquaintances. From the Day they enter into regular Pay, they are under the same military Laws with the rest of the Army, and therefore as much under Command as any Troops whatever. Such a Militia would overaw all the domestick Enemies of the Government, and make foreign Foes lay aside all Thoughts of Invasions. It would enable

able his Majesty to send the more of his regular Troops to foreign Wars. It would raise a military Spirit in the Nation, and prove an excellent Nursery for supplying other Troops with Recruits.

And whereas, *Great Britain* at present with her great Naval Force, and so small a Land Army, is like an infirm human Body with long and strong Arms; she would then be as firm within as formidable without. And the Money laid out upon such a Militia, being so well sown over all the Kindgom, would not hurt the Nation so much as 10,000 *l.* spent Abroad.

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